

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 111930

R 170520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6087

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: LAO COMMENT ON AMERICAN SOCIETY

1. THE LAO COMMUNISTS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR CRITICISM OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" OR SPECIFIC ACTS BY THE UNITED STATES TO WHICH THEY OBJECT, FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE ENGAGED IN A MORE GENERAL PROGRAM OF CRITICIZING AMERICAN SOCIETY AND CIVILIZATION AS A WHOLE. A RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS PROGRAM WAS AN ARTICLE IN THE NEWSPAPER "VIENTIANE MAY", WHICH APPEARED IN TWO PARTS ON FEBRUARY 12 AND 14, ENTITLED "ASSASSINATIONS AND ASSASSINATION PLOTS AGAINST AMERICAN PRESIDENTS."

2. AS A GENERAL COMMENT ON THE PHENOMENA OF PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATIONS THE ARTICLE STATED: "ASSASSINATION PLOTS AND ASSASSINATIONS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN A TRADITION BECAUSE PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE COME TO POWER HAVEN'S CARRIED OUT THEIR PROMISES; HAVE NOT ENDED WARS; AND HAVE LIED TO THEIR PEOPLE. THEY HAVE SAID THEY WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN ANY COUNTRY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT THEY DID NOT DO WHAT THEY SAID; SO THEY WERE KILLED. THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REPRESENT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE BUT RATHER THE COMPANIES, FIRMS, PRODUCERS, INDUSTRIES AND MILLIONAIRES IN AMERICA. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS RACISM, RECESSION AND THE ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF GOODS. THAT IS WHY ASSASSINATIONS OCCUR. AMERICA HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MURDERS IN THE WORLD."

3. THE ARTICLE THEN LISTS PRESIDENTS LINCOLN, GARFIELD, MCKINLEY, HARDING (SIC) AND KENNEDY AS HAVING BEEN ASSASSINATED. IT SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE CIA, BUT ADDS THAT THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION. IT THEN LISTS ATTEMPTS TO KILL PRESIDENTS THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND FORD, BUT OMITTS THOSE AGAINST PRESIDENTS FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND TRUMAN.

4. AN EARLIER SERIES WHICH RAN IN THE SAME PAPER IN LATER JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY REVIVED TEN-YEAR-OLD ALLEGATIONS AGAINST U.S. ATROCITIES IN VIET-NAM, SOMETIMES CITING U.S. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF THE PRIOD.

5. "VIENTIANE MAY" EDITOR PRICHA TRICHAN HAS NEVERTHELESS REMAINED ON REASONABLY FRIENDLY TERMS WITH PAO AND TOLD PAO FEBRUARY 15 THAT THESE ARTICLES DO NOT ORIGINATE WITH HIM OR HIS STAFF BUT INSTEAD ARE SUPPLIED TO HIS PAPER, WHICH IS OBLIGED TO RUN THEM. PRICHA DID NOT SPECIFY THE SOURCE OF THE ARTICLES BUT WE EXPECT IT MAY BE THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. THE MINISTRY MAY SEE SOME MERIT IN PLACING SUCH SCURRILOUS MATERIAL IN THE OSTENSIBLY INDEPENDENT "VIENTIANE MAY" RATHER THAN IN THE OFFICIAL PARTY DAILY "SIENG PASASON."

6. COMMENT: THE TONE OF THESE ARTICLES IS, OF COURSE, OFFENSIVE. WE CAN EXPECT OTHERS OF A SIMILAR NATURE, HOWEVER, AS THE LAO AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO BUILD AN IMAGE OF AMERICA, IN THE MINDS OF THEIR SUBJECTS, AS A NATION OF UNMITIGATED EVIL. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ANTIAMERICAN, ASSASSINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760058-0601
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760242/aaaabkoi.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO COMMENT ON AMERICAN SOCIETY
TAGS: PFOR, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006